

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of July 11, 2005**

1. National Night Out: Chief Creamer attended the C-SAFE oversight committee (Ward 6). The C-SAFE Team is planning a major National Night Out event in the adjacent Langley Park area and an event at Hampshire Towers, both on Tues. Aug. 2. Residents are encouraged to contact the COP Team, through Sgt. Gilbert at 301/891-7124, for assistance in planning their own local NNO events. *(Police)*

2. Crime Report (Wards 5, 6, and 2): Criminal Investigations assisted M-NCPPC Police with crime scene processing and interviews related to a suicide Thursday afternoon at Sligo Creek Parkway and Kennebec. (Ward 5) The deceased was a Silver Spring resident (Flower Avenue). CID has noted a possible resurgence of commercial burglary in the New Hampshire/University area (Ward 6) and is developing a detail in response. Also of concern is some increase in residential burglary, especially in the area of Sligo Creek and Longbranch. (Ward 2) Residents should be aware of suspicious behavior and review security issues. (Windows should be locked, even when open.) *(Police)*

3. Other Police News: Cpl. Keith Largent returned to full duty, having recovered from an injury sustained during a March canine track and arrest. Ofc. Sean McGarvey resigned to take a position with the Annapolis Police Department. *(Police)*

4. Takoma-Piney Branch Park (Wards 4 and 1): The Planning Board's action on the concept facility plan for Takoma-Piney Branch Park is now scheduled for August 4th. A time for the agenda item will not be set until just a few days before the Board meeting. For more information, contact Ellen Masciocchi of the Park and Planning staff at 301-650-2867. *(Community and Government Liaison)*

5. New Staff Members- Planning Intern and Associate Planner: Our new planning intern - Martin Salmon - started today, Friday, July 15th. Martin will be assisting the Economic and Community Development staff on a number of projects including the Main Street program and several other smaller economic development and design projects. He will be receiving his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Maryland this coming spring. David Suls has accepted the Associate Planner position and will begin on Monday, August 1st. David will be working with the Senior Planner on a variety of projects including pending pedestrian safety and traffic calming initiatives. David is currently working in Rhode Island for GrowSmartRI, a smart growth public interest group. He has a Master's Degree from the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London and brings a variety of strategic planning, urban design, research and policy analysis skills to the position. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law (Ward 6): The City received notification on July 12, 2005 that Hampshire Towers (7333 and 7401 New Hampshire Avenue) is in the process of being sold for \$16,640,000 to Tenacity 7333 New Hampshire Ave LLC. There are 448 units in the combined two buildings. The tenants have received a notification of this impending sale and a notification of their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law. Community Organizers, Mario Cristaldo and Rozanne Look will visit the property to arrange a meeting with the tenants. The prospective purchaser of the property is the same firm that converted 7611 Maple Avenue from a limited equity cooperative into a condominium a number of years ago. In speaking to the representative from Tenacity, he indicated that the current plan is to keep one building rental units and convert the other building to condominiums. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Landlord-Tenant Affairs (Ward 5): 636 Houston Avenue: Moses Wilds, Jr. Landlord-Tenant Mediation Specialist is continuing to monitor the situation at 636 Houston Avenue, where tenants have been without air conditioning since a break down in the equipment. Information presented by the landlord to the city, is that contractors are working as quickly as possible to restore the air conditioning. Fans are being provided to tenants as requested. The code enforcement division is aware of the problem and is also monitoring the progress of repairs. In the meantime, Mr. Wilds has been talking to the owner regarding a possible reimbursement of rent for the loss of this amenity. Tenants are also being advised that they may file a complaint with COLTA regarding this issue. Community Organizer Mario Cristaldo will visit the building to arrange a meeting with the tenants. 641 Houston Avenue: The Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs and the Code Enforcement Division are continuing to monitor the progress at this property regarding the breakdown of the elevator. Tenants have been without an elevator since March 2. The owner, Mr. David Vichi, who is also in the process of converting this property to a condominium, informed the tenants of the problem and initially thought that the work would be completed within one month. A delay in the repairs occurred and tenants were informed of their right to file a complaint with COLTA regarding the loss of this amenity. To date, no complaint has been filed. The latest word from the owner is that the work, which will have to be inspected by the state, will be done by the end of July. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1): The contractor excavated the sidewalk and curb and installed new curb. They will continue to excavate along the street next week. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 and Ward 3): The driveway apron was reconstructed and the median sidewalk poured this week. Brickwork has been restarted. Next week the median sidewalk concrete work will be completed. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Planned Crime Prevention Workshop (Ward 1 and Ward 3): The Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) and Columbia Union College will be co-sponsoring a pair of day-long seminars dealing with crime prevention, personal safety and security, and disaster preparedness. Current plans call for these seminars to be presented in September and October. One session will be geared to resident and family concerns, while the other will be directed more to business and commercial issues. There will be speakers and workshops addressing such concerns as: police and fire issues, cyber-security, personal and identity protection, insurance matters, first-aid and disaster response, etc. Planning staff has been asked to assist in this effort. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Community Development Summit (Citywide): The Citizen's Advisory Committee hosted a Community Development Summit and CDBG hearing on Wednesday, June 29. The meeting provided residents with an opportunity to participate in a discussion of the community development needs of Takoma Park and its low and moderate income residents. The information gathered during this discussion will be used to identify specific community needs, solicit proposals from eligible organizations, and evaluate requests for CDBG funding. Thirteen people participated in the discussion. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Community Development Block Grant Program (Citywide): The City is currently accepting applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Designed to provide flexible financing for projects which primarily benefit low and moderate income households and neighborhoods, CDBG funds may be used for a variety of activities including but not limited to neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, health care, crime prevention, etc. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 pm on Monday, August 22, 2005. For more information, please contact the HCD office at 301.8917224. *(Housing and Community Development)*